

The following claims are presented in this application:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended) A process for the production of an alkaline glass[[es]] with a modified glass surface, the process comprising the steps of:

providing an alkaline glass, wherein said alkaline glass has a surface ~~defined by a glass surface area~~ and a volume; and

contacting said surface of said alkaline glass with ~~a contacting volume~~ of an aluminum-chloride compound in a vapor phase, wherein, with the formation of sodium aluminosilicates, are formed near said glass surface area of said alkaline glass an aluminum concentration is increased in relation to the volume to provide an aluminum-modified structure in said surface to provide the modified glass surface.

Claims 3-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein contacting the surface of said glass[[es]] ~~is brought into contact~~ with said aluminum chloride compound[[s]] in said vapor phase lasts for a treatment time between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein said surface of said alkaline glass is contacted with the aluminum chloride compound[[s]] in said vapor phase ~~used is in~~ an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^3 ~~of said contacting volume~~, and wherein a lower sample temperature of the glass surface is limited by the temperature change resistance of the glass and an upper sample temperature of the glass surface is up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a temperature of the aluminum chloride compound[[s]] in said vapor phase is between a sublimation temperature of 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the process is used in tube glass production and said vapor phase aluminum chloride compound is urged through a tube similarly to the air in the Vello or Danner process to provide an inner blowing pressure.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A process for modifying the surface of an alkaline glass with a modified glass surface, the process comprising the steps of:

providing an alkaline glass, wherein said alkaline glass has a surface ~~defined by a glass surface area~~ and a volume;

contacting said surface of said alkaline glass with ~~a contacting volume of an aluminum-chloride bearing vapor, wherein~~ with the formation of sodium aluminosilicates, are formed near said glass surface area an aluminum concentration is increased in relation to the volume to provide an aluminum-modified structure in said surface to provide the modified glass surface;
and

heating said surface of said alkaline glass with a heat treatment.

Claims 11-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) The process of claim 10, wherein contacting the surface of the alkaline glass ~~is contacted~~ with ~~[[an]]~~ the aluminum chloride vapor of said aluminum-chloride bearing vapor for a treatment time between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The process of claim 14, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an application of the aluminum compound of said aluminum-chloride bearing vapor on the surface of the alkaline glass is accomplished in an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^3 ~~of said contacting volume~~.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the aluminum-chloride bearing vapor is heated to a temperature between 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A process for the treating of an alkaline glass container with a modified glass surface, the process comprising the steps of:

providing an alkaline glass container, wherein said container has a surface ~~defined by a glass surface area and a volume~~; and

contacting said surface of said container with ~~a contacting volume~~ of an aluminum-chloride compound in a vapor phase, wherein ~~with the formation~~ sodium aluminosilicates, ~~are formed~~ near said glass surface ~~area~~ of said container an aluminum concentration is increased in relation to the volume to provide and aluminum-modified structure in said surface to provide the modified glass surface.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended) The process ~~of claim 18~~ as in claim 2, 10, or 17, wherein said modified glass surface ~~area~~ has ~~[[an]]~~ the aluminum-modified structure and the sodium is bound ~~[[to]]~~ in said aluminum-modified structure.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The process ~~of claim 2~~ as in claim 2, 10, or 17, wherein ~~formation of sodium aluminosilicates provides~~ a resistance to thermally induced reverse sodium diffusion within said modified glass surface ~~area~~ of said alkaline glass is provided.

Claims 21-23 (cancelled)